

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 21, 2006, has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 26, 30, 35, and 36 are amended as to matters of form only. No new matter has been added, and no amendments have been made that require further consideration or search. Claims 26-38 are pending in this application and are submitted for reconsideration.

An objection was made to the drawings on grounds alleging that the "item of receiving equipment is adapted to be charged on the item of source portable equipment via said charger (10)" is not shown. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The receiving equipment and the source equipment are clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of the present application. Thus, the objection to the drawings is improper and withdrawal thereof is earnestly requested.

Objections were made to the specification as failing to provide "proper antecedent basis" for the claimed subject matter. Applicants have made amendments to claims 30, 35 and 36 to address claim objections (see below) and therefore, the objection to the specification is moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 30, 35, and 36 were objected to because of minor informalities. Namely, the word "chartered" in claim 30 and the phrase "on the item" in claim 35 were found to "lack antecedent basis in the specification," and claim 36 was found to depend from a cancelled claim. Claims 30, 35 and 36 have been amended as to matters of form to

correct any inconsistencies between the specification and the claims, and to correct the dependency of claim 36. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Claims 26-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action objected to the use of the term “adapted to” throughout the claims because they allegedly make the claims ambiguous. The Office Action relies on a case, In re Hutchison, that was handed down in 1976 and has not been routinely followed. In re Hutchinson does not stand for the proposition that the term “adapted to” is per se indefinite. To the contrary, Applicants’ counsel performed a simple search on the Office’s website and discovered that over 468,000 U.S. patents have issued using the term “adapted to” in the claims. Claims are considered to be definite, as required by the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, when they define the metes and bounds of a claimed invention with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity. See In re Venezia, 530 F.2d 956, 958, 189 USPQ 149, 151 (CCPA 1976). The scope of claims 26-38 can be easily ascertained and therefore the use of “adapted to” does not render the claim indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 37, Applicants submit that claim 26 does not recite “a converter” and claim 37 is not indefinite. Applicants submit that the claims are not limited such that the multi-voltage converter recited in claim 26 and the converter recited in claim 37 must be the same converter.

Claims 26, 28-32, 35, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,030,517 to Hannsmann et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that claims 26, 28-32, 35, and 37 recite subject matter not disclosed by the prior art.

Hansmann is directed to a device for providing power to several mobile devices concurrently. The device includes a mobile device (power supplying device) having a mobile device tower server ((MDPS)) for providing power to another mobile device (power receiving device) having no external power supply connection, wherein the (MDPS) may be integrated into the power supplying device. See column 1, line 58 to column 2, line 18 of Hansmann. Voltage regulators are used for altering the power being supplied to each of the receiving devices. Each regulator is provided by a reference voltage selection circuit finally choosing one of the provided voltages. See column 3, lines 53-55 of Hansmann.

Hansmann fails to disclose a multi-voltage converter that supplies voltages and currents adapted to the items of equipment to be recharged, wherein the adapter adapts the charging power to the item of portable equipment as a function of a charging program supplied to the charger as defined by the claimed invention. As described in the present specification, various charging programs can be supplied simultaneously to the charger allowing the simultaneously charging several items of equipment. Prior recognition of the equipment connected can be achieved, for example, by sending a low-power alternating signal and reading the response that is characteristic of the equipment (impedance measurement of internal electric circuit of the equipment,

sending impulses by the equipment and similar). Recognition allows the microprocessor to determine a charging program for the equipment. See page 5, lines 25-34 of the present specification. Hansmann fails to disclose or suggest anything similar to this feature. Thus, Hansmann fails to disclose each and every element of claim 26, upon which claims 28-32, 35, and 37 depend. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 26, 28-32, 35, and 37 be allowed.

Claims 27 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansmann and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,495,175 to Potega. Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansmann in view of U.S. Patent 6,903,950 to Afzal et al. Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansmann and in view of U.S. Patent 6,664,792 to Nguyen. Applicants traverse the rejections and submit that claims 27, 33-34 and 38 recite subject matter not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the cited prior art.

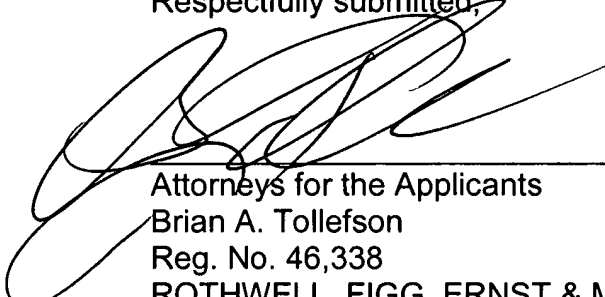
As described above, Hansmann fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 26, upon which claims 27, 33-34 and 38 depend. None of the prior art references cures the above-described deficiencies of Hansmann and, therefore, the rejections of claims 27, 33-34 and 38 are improper for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 27, 33-34 and 38 be allowed.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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